

Gosforth Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Gosforth Parish Council
held on Wednesday 9th June 2021 at Gosforth Public Hall at 7pm**

PRESENT

Mark Fussell (MF) – Chairman

Councillors

Rachel Unsworth (RU) – Vice Chair

Paul Turner (PT)

Dawn Pennington (DP)

Others: Jacqueline Williams (Clerk), and one member of the public.

David Gray (DG)

Graham Hutson (GH)

Tyson Norman (TN)

101/21 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED that apologies be received from Cllr. McKinley and the reason noted. District Cllr. Pratt also sent his apologies.

102/21 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Turner declared an interest in Lake District National Park planning and rights of way and will take no part in any discussion on these topics.

103/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 12th May 2021, pages 112 to 116, be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

104/21 Public Participation

One member of the public attended the meeting to observe and to request that weather conditions be taken into account when grass cutting as some areas had turned to mud earlier in the year, made worse by cutting too low.

105/21 County Councillor and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Turner reported that there would be a road closure between Gosforth and Seascale for repairs which is hoped would take place overnight. In answer to Cllr. Hutson, Cllr. Turner said that roads in Gosforth would be patched this year and resurfaced next year.

106/21 Planning Applications

Applications:

HN/21/01 Water Treatment Plant – removal of hedgerow to facilitate construction of a pipeline.

Cllrs. noted the comprehensive tree survey and replanting plan.

RESOLVED that the Clerk respond with no objections.

Action: Clerk

Decisions:

7/2021/4041 Old Hallsteads – extension to accommodate ground floor bathroom - Granted.

Other Planning Matters:

Cllr. Unsworth has received a significant quantity of correspondence and signatures in protest against the proposed changes to the footpath resulting from the project to reinstate the original route of the River Irt. The Clerk has also received several emails on this subject. Cllr. Unsworth had, again, met with Chris West of the West Cumbria Rivers Trust and the leader of the recently formed opposition group to gain an understanding from both sides. Cllrs. agreed that the Parish Council only have a chance to comment on a planning application which may not come forward as WCRT are to carry out the work on behalf of the Environment Agency. However, Cllrs. agreed that there were environmental benefits to the project whilst noting the concerns of many local residents. It was agreed that Cllr. Unsworth continue to monitor this issue and report back. **Action: RU**

107/21 Financial Reports

The Clerk noted that a VAT refund had been received and Cllr. Unsworth had deposited funds raised totalling £535.06 which will be ring-fenced for future events.

RESOLVED that the Bank Reconciliation to 30th April 2021 be received and signed.

108/21 Annual Governance & Accountability Return – Governance Statement 2020/21

The Clerk has prepared the AGAR for 2020/21 and reported that the Internal Audit had been completed.

RESOLVED that the Governance Statement 2020/21 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

109/21 Annual Governance & Accountability Return – Accounting Statements 2020/21

RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements for 2020/21 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

110/21 Schedule of Payments

The Clerk presented the schedule of payments for approval and one further invoice for £100 for the Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments and the additional invoice be approved for payment.

111/21 Public Toilets & Car Park

Cllrs. noted that no further correspondence had been received from Copeland Borough Council and that Cllr. Pratt had agreed to ascertain the methodology of the survey CBC were carrying out together continuing to press for the documentation promised months ago. **Action: AP**

Cllr. Gray raised the subject of the blocked drain at the lower end, close to the houses. The Clerk reported that the Cleaner had checked that it was not coming from the toilets. Cllr. Ancell was going to contact United Utilities and Cllr. Unsworth agreed to check progress. **Action/RU**

112/21 Secondary School Allocation & Transport

Cllr. Turner said the consultation was now closed and reported that West Lakes Academy are reminding sixth form students to apply for transport.

113/21 Tourist Information Point

Cllr. Unsworth has contacted Cumbria Tourism who have suggested two suppliers of leaflets. Cllr. Unsworth will contact the Café to confirm they remain willing to become a TIP. **Action/RU**

114/21 Telephone Box

Cllr. Unsworth reported that work has started with a first coat of paint. A discussion took place regarding whether the kiosk should be locked and Cllrs. agreed to monitor. Cllr. Unsworth is looking into various options for shelving.

Action: RU

115/21 Tinkers Hill/Gravel Pit

Cllr. Gray has copied all the relevant documents to progress the application for registration. Cllr. Norman reported that the tenant is dealing with controlling the Japanese Knotweed and some top-heavy trees that appear to be diseased. Cllr. Fussell noted that there is a penalty for not reporting Japanese Knotweed. Cllrs. pointed out that it was spreading from adjacent land. There was a discussion about who owned the land and Cllr. Fussell agreed to discuss with the NDA's land agent. Cllr. Norman has requested a copy of the lease agreement.

Action: MF/TN

116/21 Open Space Society

After a short discussion, it was agreed that membership of the OSS would not benefit the Parish Council at this time.

117/21 Geological Disposal Facility

Cllr. Hutson had been unable to attend the last meeting and will forward a summary once received.

Action: GH

118/21 Community Led Plan

Cllr. Fussell had arranged a zoom meeting with the school children to get their views, which had been highly successful. He commented that he had been impressed with how very switched on the children were to all the issues in the village. Cllr. Unsworth has posted questionnaires to all the outlying addresses and responses are coming in.

119/21 Playground Inspection

The Clerk had been waiting for a price from Copeland BC for an Annual Inspection, but they had stated they were only able to carry out monthly inspections at this time. However, a few days later a report was sent via email which had been carried out in March 2021. The contact at CBC was unaware who had ordered the report. The Clerk agreed to circulate the report which she feels may suffice for this year.

Action: Clerk

120/21 Standing Orders – Review & Update

The Clerk had prepared and circulated draft Standing Orders in line with the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) Model to replace the current SOs. Cllrs. are requested to study the draft and send comments prior to the next meeting. Cllrs. Gray requested the Clerk check the wording on the SO regarding the recording of votes which he felt should be agreed prior to a vote rather than after the vote was taken. Cllrs. Norman and Hutson suggested adding an SO to cover any need to alter the SOs in the case of an emergency such as a pandemic.

Action: All

121/21 Meetings

Cllrs. Fussell and Unsworth reported on the Public Hall meeting and the repairs that are planned using funds from government support grants received during the pandemic.

122/21 Councillor Administration

A member of the parish is interested in joining the Parish Council but was unable to attend the meeting. There are two vacancies.

123/21 Councillor Matters

Cllr. Gray - needs help to carry out annual tasks to maintain the borders at the Car Park and pressed Cllr. Turner to contact the Haverigg Team. Cllr. Unsworth suggested that a village care team could be formed within the community to carry out this kind of work. **Action: PT/RU**

Cllr. Norman - questioned whether a planning application is needed for a static home/caravan and new access and will send details to the Clerk for submission to Copeland.**Action: TN/Clerk**

Cllr. Turner – said that a ‘Do not follow Satnav’ sign is to be installed at Boonwood and another adjusted. One dropped kerb will be installed at Petton Place.

Cllr. Unsworth – said that the planters at Temple Terrace need attention. Cllr. Gray suggested getting the Haverigg team to empty the planters and that the Parish Council purchase shrubs. Cllr. Unsworth suggested it could be a job for the scouts or village care team if one could be established.

Cllr. Hutson – requested Cllr. Turner report that lines between the sub-station and Methodist Church need reinstating. **Action: PT**

Cllr. Fussell – noted that weeds throughout the village need attention. Cllr. Turner said it was now the responsibility of the County Council and he will find out when it can be done. **Action: PT**

Cllr. Fussell – has continued to receive reports of speeding, poor driving behaviours and issues with parking. Cllr. Norman suggested this can be included in the Community Led Plan and reported on a group of residents in another parish who had met with the County Council and Highways and managed to achieve much progress over a period of eighteen months.

Cllr. Norman – requested that Jubilee celebrations be included on the next agenda. **Action: Clerk**

124/21 Item in Camera

Public Toilets Cleaning Contract

The Finance Committee met to discuss the current rate of remuneration and proposed an increase and a bonus to compensate for additional work completed previously.

RESOLVED that the proposal of the Finance Committee be approved.

125/21 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman..... **Date:**.....